



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

# Gulfco Marine Maintenance

Freeport, Texas

March 2004

## This fact sheet will tell you about:

- Present status and issues
- Site description
- Site history
- Waste and volumes
- Technical Assistance Grant available

## Present status and issues

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently completing the process of gathering evidence to determine the existence of Potentially Responsible Parties (those persons, business, organizations, present or past owner/operator or government unit identified as potentially liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) for cleanup costs of certain sites where hazardous wastes have been generated, stored, treated, or disposed).

## Site description

The Gulfco Marine Maintenance, Inc., facility is located approximately 3 miles northeast of the city of Freeport, Texas, at 906 Marlin Avenue. The coordinates of the site are 28E 58' 00.65" north latitude, and 95E 17' 22.76" west longitude (taken from the U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle, Freeport Texas). The site lies within the 100-year coastal flood plain along the north bank of the Intra-coastal Waterway between Oyster Creek to the east and the Old Brazos River Channel and the Dow Barge Canal to the west.

The Gulfco Marine Maintenance, Inc. facility is approximately 40 acres in size. The southern part of the Gulfco site drains to the south where it enters the Intra-coastal Waterway. Wetland areas are located North of the site and approximately 500 feet south of the site across the Intra-coastal Waterway. Twenty miles of

wetland frontage lie within 15 stream miles of the site. The Chicot/Evangeline Aquifer system, which is a source of municipal and smaller public water supply systems in the Freeport area, underlies the site.

## Site history

The Gulfco Marine Maintenance facility operated as a barge cleaning and waste disposal facility from 1971 through 1979, then as a barge cleaning and offshore platform construction facility until 1989, and finally as a barge cleaning and refurbishing facility until 1998. Operations at the facility involved the cleaning, servicing, and repair of various types of barges, particularly chemical. Chemical barges were drained and pumped to remove product heels, which then were stored in tanks and sold as product. Each barge was washed with water or a detergent solution. Generated wash waters were stored until 1982 either in surface impoundments, a floating barge, or on-site storage tanks. The barges were allowed to air dry and certified as safe prior to initiating repair work such as welding and sandblasting.

The Site was proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL) on September 2, 2002, and included on the NPL on May 30, 2003.

## Waste and volumes

*Source piles, ground water, soil:*

The site encompasses three buried and backfilled surface impoundments that received contaminated wash water from the barge cleaning operations, areas of contaminated soil, and releases to surface water and ground water. While a Site Screening Inspection sampling event was conducted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in January 2000 and a subsequent Expanded Site Inspection was also conducted by TCEQ in January 2001, the exact volumes

of wastes discovered at the site have yet to be determined. This information will be obtained during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study which is planned for a later date.

### **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)**

The EPA announced the availability of a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) for the Gulfco Marine Maintenance Site on September 26, 1998, and May 15, 2003. This TAG is still available to a local citizens' group to hire a technical advisor to interpret Site studies and/or Site related health information for area residents.

Only one grant of up to \$50,000 may be awarded to a citizens' group at any one Site. To be eligible for a grant, a group must incorporate. Also, the applicant must meet a 20 percent matching requirement, which may be in cash or donated services.

If you are interested in applying for this grant, or if you need additional information, please call or write to:

Beverly Negri, TAG Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 6 (6SF-PO)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202  
214-665-8157  
1-800-533-3508 (toll-free)

### **For more information, please contact...**

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#### **Phyllis June Hoey, Community Involvement Coordinator**

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#### **David Bary**

#### **EPA Region 6 Press Office**

U.S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue (6XA)  
Dallas, TX 75202  
214-665-2208

### **Information Repositories**

#### **Freeport Branch Library**

410 Brazosport Blvd.  
Freeport, TX 77541  
979-233-3622  
Ms. Margaret Janke  
Branch Manager

#### **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

#### **Records Management Center**

12100 Park 35 Circle  
Building E  
Austin TX 78753  
512-239 -2920  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

#### **U.S. EPA Region 6 Library**

12<sup>th</sup> Floor Library  
1445 Ross Avenue, Ste. 12D13  
Dallas, TX  
214-665-6424  
Monday - Friday  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### **U.S. EPA on the Internet**

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